

Frequently Asked Questions Nevada State Seal of Biliteracy



What is the State Seal of Biliteracy?

The State Seal of Biliteracy is a recognition given to graduating high school students who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in English and in reading, writing, listening and speaking in another language.

Where can I learn more about how a district can participate in this program?

The State Seal of Biliteracy website at:

<https://www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/78th2015/Bill/1515/Overview>

Placing the Seal on the Diploma and Transcript

How are the Seal of Biliteracy toward Biliteracy included on the student's diploma and transcript?

The diploma must contain the Seal that NVDOE provides to the district as a picture file. The transcript must contain the written statement that NVDOE provides to the district.

May a district affix the Seal to the diploma after it is printed?

Yes, the Seal may be affixed to the diploma.

Does NVDOE offer printed stickers with the Seal?

No, each district is responsible for printing the State Seal on student diplomas or on stickers that are affixed to the diplomas.

May a district place the Seal language on the transcript as soon as the student meets the criteria at any time during their enrollment in high school?

Yes, the Seal language may be added to the student's transcript as soon as the district determines that the student meets the criteria, at any time during the student's enrollment in high school. The Seal must also be included on the diploma when the student graduates. When the determination takes place prior to a student's graduation year (i.e. junior year), the student should be reported as receiving the Seal in their graduation year.

If a student is proficient in English and two or more other languages, how should this be recognized on the diploma and transcript?

The district should award a Seal of Biliteracy for each language other than English in which the student demonstrates proficiency.

May a district give recipients of the Seal other forms of recognition such as ribbons or certificates?

Yes, a district may give recipients other forms of recognition in addition to the required designation on the diploma and transcript.

Meeting Criteria for the Seal

Where can I find information on using assessment results to determine whether a student meets the criteria for English proficiency and proficiency in a world language for either the State Seal of Biliteracy?

As WCSD continues to develop the list of assessments with pre-established correspondence to the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) standards; here you can find the names of assessments and the cut scores to qualify a student for the Nevada Seal of Biliteracy:

Assessments	Languages	Minimum Score to Qualify for Seal of
Advanced Placement (AP®) Language and Culture exam	Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese, Latin, Spanish	3
ACTFL Assessment of Performance toward Proficiency in Languages (AAPPL)	Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish	I-4 (form B)
International Baccalaureate (IB) Exam	Arabic, Chinese (Simplified and Traditional), French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Spanish	4
Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI)	Over 100+ languages	Intermediate High

If a language assessment of four domains does not have a composite score, how does the district determine whether or not the student met the criteria for the Seal? *If the assessment has no composite score (i.e. AAPPL), the student must attain the minimum criteria for the award in each of the four domains.*

May the State Seal of Biliteracy be awarded to seniors after they graduate if the results of a test administered during their final school year are not available at the time of graduation? *Yes, if the results of an approved language assessment taken while the student is enrolled in the district are not available at the time of graduation, the district may award the Seal of Biliteracy after the student graduates when results are available. The district may recognize these students as candidates for the Seal of Biliteracy at graduation but no official designation may be included on the diploma or transcript until the district obtains assessment results that indicate that the student qualifies for the award. When the Seal of Biliteracy is awarded, a designation must be affixed to the student's diploma and included in the student's transcript.*

How will students be recognized at graduation? *Recognition at graduation is directly specific to each school site. School administrators will decide how they will recognize students receiving the Seal of Biliteracy. High school seniors taking the AP and/or the IB exam are encouraged to also take the AAPPL exam in order to*

receive their score before graduation; therefore being recognized during the ceremony.

If you have further questions regarding the Nevada State Seal of Biliteracy, please contact Ryan Smith, World Languages Program Coordinator for the Washoe County School District.

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